1: Delobsom, A.A. Dim. L'Empire du Mogho-Naba, Coutoumes des Mossi de la Haute-Volta. /The Empire of the Mogho Naba, Customs of the Mossi of Upper Volta/. Preface by Robert Randau. Institut de Droit Comparé, Etudes de Sociologie et d'Ethnologie Juridiques, Vol. II. Paris: Les Éditions Domat-Montchrestien, 1932.

Pp. viii, 303; 24 plates /Hraf MS. Pp. ii, 166/

Yale: P50 Et81 v. 11

/Not translated: Pp. 1-46, 223-233, 289-297/

/Translated from the French for the Human Relations Area Files by Kathryn A. Looney/

/Chapters 1-2, 19-20 and the appendix, which include material on the history, proverbs and rulers have not been translated since these features are covered in other sources. Dim Delobsom was a native Mossi of the noble class, employed by the French administration. He was asked by his superiors to clear up certain

1: Delobsom, A.A. Dim

ethnographic questions, and the results of his investigations are included in this book. It contains information on the organization of the Mossi empire, slavery, festivals, the life cycle, circumcision, the penetration of Islam, housing, clothing, dances, agriculture and inheritance. Though superficial in many respects, the work is particularly valuable because it presents the point of view of an educated native.--Analyst/

Field date: No date
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Indigene - 5
Processed in 1959

2: Mangin, Eugène. Les Mossi, Essai sur les us et coutumes du peuple Mossi au Soudan occidental /Essay on the Manners and Customs of the Mossi People in the Western Sudan/. Paris: Augustin Challamel, 1921.

Pp. xi, 116; 17 plates. /HRAF MS: pp. ii, 141/

Yale Day Missions: Jf M31

/Translated for the Human Relations Area Files from the French by Ariane Brunel and Elliott Skinner./

/Father Mangin, who lived among the Mossi for many years, mainly in the province of Koupela, and spoke the language fluently, based this account of Mossi customs and institutions primarily upon personal observations and interviews. The book contains information on the history, physical environment, economic life, political organization, marriage and family relations, life cycle, religious beliefs, and general characteristics of the Mossi people. The author's colonial and religious biases sometimes appear, though this work is regarded as a basic source on the Mossi.--Analyst.

Field date: ca. 1910
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1959

3: Tauxier, Louis. Nouvelles Notes sur le Mossi et le Gourounsi /New Notes on the Mossi and the Gourounsi/. Paris: Émile Larose, Libraire-Éditeur, 1924.

Pp. viii, 208; preface; bibliography; errata /HRAF MS. 1-38/

Northwestern University: 572.966 T229no

/Only pages 1-33 translated for the Files/

/Translated from the French for the Human Relations Area Files by Paul A. Mankin/

/Only pages 1-33 of the original have been translated and processed for the file; the remainder deals with peoples other than the Mossi. The section processed is largely a reconstruction of the history of the Mossi based on different types of evidence including that presented by other authors, traditions and mythology of the Mossi, conclusions from linguistic studies, anthropometry, and an extensive chronology of the Mossi which the author correlates with historical notes on peoples with whom the

3: Tauxier, Louis.

Mossi have been in contact. The author adds a chapter on the cult of the sun; except for this latter section and occasional notes on various aspects of the culture, the work is devoted to history. The author had been among the Mossi and in nearby areas intermittently from 1908 to 1923. --Analyst/

Field date: 1908-1923
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Government Official-4,5
Processed in 1959

4: Skinner, Elliott Percival. An Analysis of the Political Organization of the Mossi People. Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences, ser. II, Vol. 19, pp. 740-750. New York: 1957.

HRAF copy.

/This is a brief treatment of the history, traditions and present form of Mossi governmental organization. The author analyzes the political system of the Mossi in light of the power structure of the African state, the conquest theory of state formation, and the question of the occurrence of feudalistic states in the Sudan. The author is a member of the faculty of the Department of Anthropology of New York University. --Analyst/.

Field date: 1955-1957
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologist -5
Processed in 1959

5: Hammond, Peter B. Economic Change and Mossi Acculturation. In William R. Bascom and Melville J. Herskovits, eds., Continuity and Change in African Cultures, pp. 238-256. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1959.

Yale: Nkd 74 958B

/This article is concerned primarily with the changes in the culture of those Mossi who have been resettled in the area of the recently developed Niger Irrigation Project. As a background to his statements on such changes, the author presents a survey of Mossi political and social organization, the traditional agricultural and trading economy, a few aspects of the religion which are closely related to the economy, and a brief description of the economic cycle and the calendar of ceremonial observances which mark its phases. The principal adjustments discussed with regard to the resettlement are related to new introductions in technology, the influence of Islam on the pagan religion, and the change from residence rules and social groupings based on kinship to those which are determined by the

5: Hammond, Peter B.

administration. The author is a member of the faculty in the department of anthropology and sociology of the University of Pittsburgh. --Analyst/

Field date: 1954-1956
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1959

6: Tauxier, Louis. Le Noir du Soudan, Pays Mossi et Gourounsi Documents et Analyses /The Black Population of the Sudan, Mossi and Gourounsi Country, Documents and Analyses/. Paris: Emile Larose, Librairie-Editeur, 1912.

Pp. 796; 33 appendices /HRAF manuscript, pp. 1-133/

Yale: Nkd80 912t

/Only pp. 451-598, covering the Mossi specifically, have been translated for the Mossi file./

/Translated from the French for the Human Relations Area Files by Ariane Brunel/

/This sketch of Mossi life is taken from a larger general work on the Negro peoples of the Sudan. It is divided into two sections: occupations and the family, public works and religion. Under the first section are included a brief historical sketch, and information on agriculture, diet, natural resources, domestic animals,

6: Tauxier, Louis.

pottery-making, smiths, stonework and other occupations. The second section describes the forms of the family found among the Mossi, and contains information on government, the Moro Naba, and various religious practices. --Analyst/

Field date: ca. 1908
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Government Official - 4,5
Processed in 1960

7: Tauxier, L. Le Noir du Yatenga: Mossis - Nioniossés - Samos - Yarsés - Silmi-Mossis - Peuls /The Black Population of Yatenga/. Paris: Êmile Larose, 1917.

Pp. iv, 790 (HRAF ms. pp. ii, 61)

Yale: Nkd80 917t

/Only pp. 223-273 have been translated for the Mossi file./

/Translated from the French for the Human Relations Area Files by Varian Schmokel./

/The section selected for translation is Book IV: The Family. It contains information on groupings larger than the single household, women and the household, children and education, appendages of the family (e.g., slaves and serfs), family property, and the laws of inheritance. Some data on marriage practices are also included. Information on clientage, the attaching of one's self to a richer household, has been placed in category 566. Tauxier was a colonial administrator with a long association with the Mossi.--Analyst/

Field date: 1913-1916
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Government Official - 5
Processed in 1959

8: Skinner, Elliott Percival. Christianity and Islam among the Mossi. American Anthropologist, Vol. 60, pp. 1102-1119. Menasha: American Anthropological Association, 1958.

HRAF copy

/This article is a study of the history, methods and results of the attempts of Christians and Moslems to convert the pagan Mossi. Islam has the longest history in the area, first penetrating the Mossi territory in the 11th century, while Catholic missionaries arrived in 1900 and Protestant missionaries somewhat later. The Moslems have had the greatest success and the Protestants least. Christianity is looked upon with suspicion since it is the religion of the white conquerors and since so many of its tenets are at variance with pagan beliefs. The tenets of Islam are much closer to Mossi beliefs and it is far more adaptable to these beliefs as well. However, the Mossi have shown great resistance to both religions and the great majority of them are still pagan. There is a tendency today towards a greater Moslemization of the populace and a declining status for Catholicism and Protestantism. Skinner is a Professor of Anthropology at New York University. --Analyst/

Field date: 1955-1957
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1959

9: Skinner, Elliott P. Traditional and Modern Patterns of Succession to Political Office among the Mossi of the Voltaic Republic. The Journal of Human Relations, Volume 8, pp. 394-406. Central State College, Wilburforce, Ohio, 1960.

HRAF copy (O'Leary)

[In this paper the author has described the period of political interregnum and political succession among the Mossi and how they have adapted this to meet certain political threats under the French colonial rule and to meet the demands of the present socio-political conditions in the Voltaic Republic. --Analyst]

Field date: 1955-1957
Analyst: Robert J. Theodoratus

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1962

10: Hammond, Peter B. Mossi Joking. Ethnology, Vol. 3, pp. 259-267. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1964.

HRAF Copy.

[The author presents this paper as a tentative step in the reformulation of the ..."various and disparate observations on joking in the anthropological literature." He contends that an analysis of this literature would indicate that when joking has become institutionalized, the structural relationship between the participating parties would be characterized by ..."five significantly interrelated structural attributes: separation, reciprocity, ambivalence, equality and independence" which he illustrates with data obtained from the Yatenga Mossi. These data treat specifically of the mother's brother, mother's brother's wife joking relationships, siblings-in-law joking relationships, joking between sibs (i.e. lineages), joking between age-sets, intervillage joking, and joking between ethnic groups. Joking as a psychological adjustive mechanism, and a means of social control are also discussed.
Category 571 has been used as a general "cover" category for information on Mossi joking relationships.
Footnotes appearing in the text will be found in category 116, pp. 266-267.]

Field date: 1954-1956
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1965

11: Skinner, Elliott Percival.

of Mossi-European relations, and the resulting changes taking place in Mossi political structure as the result of the European conquest of these people.

For lack of available information on the "Ninisi," an aboriginal people living in the Upper Volta area prior to the coming of the Mossi, information on this group has been subsumed under FA28 Mossi.

Footnotes appearing in the text will be found at the end of the source: see category 116, pp. 205-219./

Field date: 1955-1957
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1965-1968

11: Skinner, Elliott Percival. The Mossi of the Upper Volta. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1964.

Pp. xiv, 236: 1 map: 11 unnumbered photographs: glossary: bibliography: index.

Yale: Nkd83 M6 964S. DLC GN655. M65S5 DLC card no.: 64-12074.

/This source presents an intensive study of the political development of the Mossi people, a Sudanese negroid group occupying the Republic of the Upper Volta, West Africa. The author gathered his data in the Upper Volta Republic between November 1955 and January 1957, a period during which many important political changes were taking place in this region, and most of the field work was done in the territory formerly included in the kingdom of Ouagadougou, although short visits were also made to the Yatenga, Tenkodogo, and Boussouma regions. The field work was further supplemented by data gathered from various government documents and ethnographies on the Mossi. Particular emphasis in this source is on the Mogho Naba (the supreme chief or emperor of the Mossi), his household, ministers, and various territorial chiefs (e.g., provincial, district and village chiefs), and the various levels of interaction between them. Additional information may also be found on law and judicial procedures, economic foundations, and religion and government. The last three chapters of this work present a culture history

12: Skinner, Elliott Percival. Trade and Market among the Mossi People. In, Paul Bohannan and George Dalton, editors, Markets in Africa, pp. 237-278, 739-753. Northwestern University African Studies Number 9. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1962.

Yale: Nfg75 A17 962B. DLC card no. 61-12383.

[According to Skinner, the Mossi kingdoms with their elaborate class system and hierarchical administrative apparatus derive much of their wealth and power from regulating and managing both internal and external Mossi market commerce: taxation and tribute obtained from the local and regional markets being a source of revenue maintaining the government and ruling elite. The point of view of the author is that the Mossi markets have multiple functions: not only as foci for internal trade exchanges between agriculturalists, herders, and certain craftsmen, but also that marketplaces are sites for rural-urban communication, intervillage social contact, rural administration, and performance of sacred and secular rituals and ceremonies. The author's thorough and complete coverage treats the social-political-economic-religious organization of the market as seen in all its dimensions. Historical evidence points to the crucial effects long range caravan trade had in establishing Mossi political power and dominance. The author refers liberally to

12: Skinner, Elliott Percival.

these early sources for data on trade routes, volume and frequency of foreign trade, and on the marketable commodities themselves. Today, he claims that Mossi commerce is viable in two forms: external (trade with other West African societies) and internal (trade among the Mossi), both being a response to economic forces or pressures and to the existence of some surplus productivity enabling the Mossi to specialize in various types of production and distribution. Most of the article deals with the dynamics of the average daily or weekly market. He lucidly describes such ongoing processes as: market attitudes and expectations, structure and organization of mercantile establishments and retail selling, the commodities and services disposable on the market, the operation of the price mechanism in determining values and costs of products, the function of money, the nature of Mossi government supervision and inspection of the market, the integration of such institutions as marriages and funerals into the market situation, and other market rituals, ceremonies, and social behavior. While the author's discussion is not a theoretical analysis of general Mossi economic principles or their determinants, its descriptive generalizations on market interrelationships are superb. References at the end of the article are included in a combined bibliography for the entire volume.]

Field date: 1955-1957 Cultural Anthropologist-4, 5
Analyst: Gilbert Winer Processed in 1967